



Photo of Governor Schwarzenegger Recognizing Asian and Pacific Islander American Administration Appointees (Photo: J. Decker, Governor's Office)

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently recognized Asian and Pacific Islander American administration appointees at the Capitol thanking them for their many contributions and service to the administration and to California. "Each of you is an integral part of my team and I want to thank you for all your hard work and dedication to the administration." The photo (above) was taken June 27, 2006, on the East Steps of the State Capitol.

Officials included A.G. Kawamura, Secretary of the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). Schwarzenegger appointed A.G. Kawamura (pictured above, to the left of the Governor) as secretary of the CDFA in November 2003. Kawamura is a produce grower and shipper from Orange County, where his family grows strawberries, green beans and other specialty crops. Kawamura has a long history of public service to his community and to agriculture. At the time of his appointment, he was a member of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture, where he had served since 1998. He is the immediate past chairman of the Agricultural Technical Advisory Committee, a USDA advisory position for international trade. He also held board positions with CDFA's Western Institute for Food Safety and Security, a partnership with U.C. Davis, and with the California Institute for Specialty Crops, a partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

In addition, Kawamura has served as president of the Orange County Farm Bureau, chairman of Western Growers Association, and president of the Orange County Agricultural Association. He has also served as a director on the boards of the California Strawberry Commission and the California Celery Research Advisory Board. He was a founding trustee of Sage Hill High School in Orange County. Secretary Kawamura is widely known for his passion for education and for his commitment to the issues of hunger and nutrition. As president of Orange County Harvest, a non-profit promoting agricultural partnerships with organizations combating hunger, he arranged for thousands of volunteers to harvest and glean over a million pounds of produce for area food banks. His nationally recognized urban projects, such as the 7-acre Common Ground project in San Juan Capistrano and 4-acre Incredible Edible Park in Irvine, are agricultural paradigms linking nutritional education and interaction with local schools and food banks.